

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. 1. A method for the catalytic conversion of an
2. organic carbonate to a corresponding alcohol
3. comprising:
4. contacting the organic carbonate with an alcohol
5. and/or water in the presence of a zinc supported
6. catalyst.
1. 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc
2. supported catalyst comprises a support material which
3. is selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , Al_2O_3 ,
4. MgO , TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , Cr_2O_3 , C and mixtures thereof.
1. 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc
2. supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising
3. impregnating the support material with a zinc salt or
4. a metallic or organometallic species.
1. 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the zinc
2. supported catalyst is formed by a method comprising
3. co-kneading or co-precipitating a zinc salt with the
4. salt of another metal.
1. 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the zinc
2. supported catalyst is calcinated at a temperature in
3. the range of from 200 °C to 800 °C.
1. 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the alcohol is
2. selected from the group consisting of an aromatic
3. ($\text{C}_5\text{-C}_9$) alcohol and an aliphatic $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{30}$ alcohol.
1. 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the aromatic
2. alcohol comprises phenol.
1. 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the aliphatic
2. alcohol is a saturated or unsaturated $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ -
3. alkylalcohol.
1. 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the organic
2. carbonate is selected from the group consisting
3. of dialkyl carbonate, diaryl carbonate,

4 alkylaryl carbonate, and arylalkyl carbonate,
5 wherein the alkyl and/or aryl groups may be
6 linked together.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the molar ratio
2 between water and alcohol is in the range of
3 from 1:1 to 1:100.